
A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Sondra Franek

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Grasshopper, Ants, Writing, Reading

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is for students to understand the meaning behind the actions of the characters and why they have certain jobs during the year. Reading the short story, "The Ants and the Grasshopper", students are able to grasp the different reasonings behind why the insects do specific activities and why. This story teaches them to use their reading and writing skills together to help them comprehend the story and what each aspect of the story may mean. These skills allow them to explain, in their own words, what the story means to them and helps them answer the questions regarding the text.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3: Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3b: Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4a: Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

The Ants and the Grasshopper

by

Content: It is wintertime. The weather is cold, but the ants are doing fine. They have their warm home, and they have a lot of food to eat. They can wait for the warm weather in spring. The reason the ants have a lot of food is because they worked in the summer. So now they have grain to eat.

Grain is a kind of plant. People plant it and cut it and then they use it to make bread. The ants get the grain in summer, because that is when grain grows. The ants live in the fields where the grain grows. When the wind blows, some grain falls and the ants rush to get it. They do not eat it right then. They save it because they need to be able to have food in the winter months when plants do not grow. This goes on all summer.

The ants work hard every day. They pick up the grain, they carry it to their home. Every ant helps. Each ant carries one piece of grain. It is hard work. They carry more than they need to eat every day. They carry grain they will eat in winter, too. They play sometimes, but most of the time they work.

The grasshoppers live near the ants, and they love summer. They hop and play and they laugh at the ants. They say, We have fun every day while you work every day. Come and play. You can get grain later. But the ants say, No, we have to work.

Soon it is winter, and the grasshoppers are cold. They are hungry, too. They do not have food to eat. Since they played all summer, they did not save food for winter.

One day, a grasshopper came to see the ants and he was very hungry. Please, ants, could you help me a little bit? I am just so hungry! said the grasshopper.

The ants asked him, Why didnt you work in summer? We did. Remember, how you played while we worked? You made fun of us and said, All work and no play is no good. Well, now we have food and you are hungry.

The grasshopper said, I didn't have the time. The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing. I couldnt help but have fun. We had such a good time.

The ants said, We are sorry you have no food. We have a lot because we worked hard. You have none because you played. But, we will give you some food because we are good, kind neighbors. We want you to live, so we will help you now. But learn from us. Playing is a lot of fun. But you need to work to live.

The grasshopper thanked the ants. The grasshopper had learned a lesson. It is fun to play, but you need to save for winter, too. You need to work if you want to eat. Next summer, he would work and play, too, just like the ants.

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Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: Worked **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In our story, the author says, "The reason the ants have a lot of food is because they worked in the summer". What does the word "worked" mean in this sentence?

- A: Played
- B: Slept
- C: Swam
- D: Found their grains

Question: Which sentence uses the word "worked" correctly?

- A: The people worked all day long at their jobs.
 - B: The legos worked the way Johnny wanted them to.
 - C: Elise didn't know how the TV worked.
 - D: The hose worked when she turned it on.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Weather **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says, "The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing". What does the word "weather" mean in the sentence?

- A: Song
- B: Drive
- C: Sunny
- D: Sleep

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "weather" correctly?

- A: The weather was warm today, so I sat outside all day.
 - B: I was hot while we were hiking in today's weather because it was so sunny outside.
 - C: Today's weather is perfect for a beach day because it is so hot outside.
 - D: All of the above.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Good **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The story says "We had such a good time". What does the word "good" mean in the sentence?

- A: Bad
- B: Fun
- C: Horrible
- D: Awful

Question: Which one of these sentences uses the word "good" correctly?

- A: She had a good time at her best friends birthday party.
 - B: The food was good at the restaurant.
 - C: The good dog sat at the end of the table.
 - D: The song was good at the end of the play.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Grain **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: Our story says, "So now they have grain to eat". What does the word "grain" mean in this sentence?

- A: Plant
- B: River
- C: Tree
- D: Nut

Question: Which sentence uses the word "grain" correctly?

- A: Our moms said, "go against the grain".
 - B: The whole grain bread was yummy!
 - C: The wood's grain was different than one I've ever seen.
 - D: I always listen to what he says with a grain of salt.
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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Why does the text include why people grow the grain?

The part of the story I want you to focus on starts at the paragraph saying, Grain is a kind of plant. Why do you think the author includes this paragraph in the text? Is it important for you to know about the reasons grain is grown?

2 - What lesson did the grasshopper learn?

The story says, The grasshopper had learned a lesson. What lesson did the grasshopper learn, and why is it important to the story? in your words, briefly explain.

3 - Would you help the grasshoppers?

If you were an ant like the ones in the story, would you help the grasshoppers if they asked for food? Or would you tell them no? Why would you give them food or why would you not give them food?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write 2-3 paragraphs on what you would do if you were an ant. This includes where you live, what you eat, what your daily activities would be and how you would stay warm during the cold months of the year.

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